

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
CPR-01 /073 W

-----101010Z 111627 /11

O R 100920Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4856

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE 70

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI

USUN NEW YORK 526

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 0752

ABIDJAN FOR AMBASSADOR JOHN L. LOUGHRAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SO

SUBJ: US/SOMALI RELATIONS: PRESIDENT SIAD'S FAILURE TO RECEIVE

U.S. AMBASSADOR

REF: MOGADISCIO 0729 (NOTAL)

1. SPECULATION ABOUT SIAD'S MOTIVES IS ALWAYS UNSATISFACTORY
AND SOMETIMES UNSAFE, BUT IT APPEARS HIS FAILURE RECEIVE AMBASSADOR
LOUGHRAN BEFORE LTTER DEPARTED FOR ABIDJAN, DESPITE EFFORTS BY
SOMALI AMBASSADOR ADDOU AND SIAD'S PROTOCOL CHIEF TO ARRANGE
CALL, MAY HAVE BEEN RELATED TO NOTICEABLE SLOWDOWN IN HECTIC PACE
DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY AND ONSET WAIT-AND-SEE PERIOD OVER PAST FEW

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WEEKS.

2. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT SIAD MAY NOT HAVE BEEN TOO
BUSY SEE AMBASSADOR IN DAYS PRECEDING DJIBOUTI REFERENDUM -- AT BEST
OF TIMES HE IS WORKHORSE -- BUT IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT SIAD HAS BEEN
MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENTS BEARING DOWN HEAVILY ON GSDR'S ATTACHMENT
TO MARXISM-LENINISM AND SOVIET UNION AND WARNING SOMALIS NOT TO HEED

"IMPERIALIST-INSPIRED" RUMORS OF TROUBLE WITH SOVIETS. HIS APRIL 27 SPEECH AT TRADE UNION CONGRESS (A-20 NOTAL BEING POUCHED) CALLED ON SOVIETS TO STUDY HORN OF AFRICA CAREFULLY "BEFORE PASSING LASTING JUDGEMENTS" ON SITUATION. SOVIET CAUTION AT THIS STAGE, HE SAID, COULD STILL "AVERT ALL IMPERIALIST SPECULATION...AN SAVE THE TWO COUNTRIES (SOMALI/ETHIOPIA) FROM UNDESIRE STRIFE". SIMILARLY, OFFICIAL MEDIA HAVE BEEN REPORTING NEW AGREEMENTS BEING SIGNED BY GSDR AND USSR IN PLANNING AND OTHER FIELDS. IN OTHER WORDS, BUSINESS AS USUAL.

3. IN ASSESSING RESULTS RECENT FLURRY ARAB DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY AT MOGADISCIO, MOST ARAB OBSERVERS CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT PROSPECTS OF SOMALI/ARAB RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY BUT THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SIAD HAS FENDED OFF ALL PRESSURES, THUS FAR, TO REDUCE SOVIET INFLUENCE AND PRESENCE IN SOMALIA. IN OTHER WORDS, ARABS STILL HAVE NOTHING CONCRETE TO SHOW FOR THEIR EFFORTS. IT IS A SMALL POINT BUT PERHAPS SYMBOLIC THAT SIAD PERMITTED SAUDI-BUILT GRAND MOSQUE TO BE INAUGURATED DURING VISIT SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER SAUD BUT LOCKED UP BUILDING AFTER SAUD'S DEPARTURE. KUWAITI CHARGE OMAR FAHAD AL-OMAR BELIEVES IT IS NOT IN ARABS' INTEREST TO ALLOW SITUATION DRIFT MUCH LONGER. HE HOPES SCHEDULED VISIT OF SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD WILL RESTORE MOMENTUM TO ARAB CAMPAIGN WOO GSDR AWAY FROM SOVIETS.

4. NOTHING IN PRESENT SITUATION SUGGESTS THAT SIAD HAS DROPPED HIS STRONG OPPOSITION TO SOVIET MOVES IN ETHIOPIA. RATHER, IT APPEARS SIAD IS PLAYING WAITING GAME TO SEE HOW FAR SOVIETS WILL GO TO PROP UP MENGISTU REGIME AND ETHIOPIAN "IMPERIALISM". HE WILL WANT TO EXAMINE CLOSELY THE RESULTS OF MENGISTU'S TRIP TO
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MOSCOW. IT WOULD ALSO BE CHARACTERISTIC OF SIAD TO TANTALIZE HIS ARAB AND OTHER SUITORS IN ORDER RAISE PRICE THEY MAY BE WILLING TO PAY FOR AN EVENTUAL REALIGNMENT GSDR FOREIGN POLICY. ANOTHER FACTOR IN PRESENT WAITING GAME, ACCORDING SOME OBSERVERS, IS SIAD'S RELUCTANCE TO JEOPARDISE HIS MAIN, I.E. SOVIET, SOURCE OF MILITARY SUPPLIES BEFORE DJIBOUTI COMPLETES PASSAGE TO INDEPENDENCE IN JUNE.

5. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS MORE THAN EVER NECESSARY TO KNOW WHAT ARABS ARE OFFERING AND EXPECTING FROM SIAD AND TO HEAR FROM SIAD HIMSELF WHAT ROLE HE EXPECTS US TO PLAY. HOPEFULL, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE'S FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS WITH SAUDI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT JIDDA WILL PROVIDE SOME ANSWERS TO FIRST QUESTION. FRANK TALKS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR LOUGHRAN AND SIAD, WHEN FORMER RETURNS MOGADISCIO, SHOULD SHED LIGHT ON SECOND. IN MEANTIME, WE SUGGEST USG CONTINUE PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY WITH RESPECT GSDR.
JACOBS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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